The true Copies of two LETTERS:

VVritten by the late Earle of *STRAFFORD.* Wentworth

The one to his Sacred Majesty.

The other to a Lady of great note.

With the *Psalme* that he chose to read at the time of his death.

Printed in the Yeare 1641.

BRITISH MUSEUM

The Earle of STRAFFORDS Letter, to his most Excellent Majesty, dated from the Tower, 4. *May.* 1641.

May it please your sacred Majesty,

IT hath been my greatest griefe in all these troubles, to be taken as a person which should endevour to represent and set things amisse between your Majesty and your people; and to give Counsells tending to the disquiet of the three Kingdomes.

Most true it is, that this mine owne private Condition considered, it had beene a great madnesse, since through your gracious favour I was so provided, as not to expect in any kinde to mend my fortune, or please my minde more, than by resting where your bounteous hands had placed me.

Nay, it is most mightily mistaken, for unto your Majesty is well knowne, my poore, and humble advises concluded still in this, That your Majesty and your people could never bee happy, till there were a right understanding betwixt you and them: no other means to effect and settle this happinesse, but by the Councell and assent of the Parliament; or to prevent the growing evills upon this state, but by intirely putting your selfe in the last resort, upon the loyalty and good affections of your English subjects.

Yet such is my misfortune, this truth findeth little credit, the contrary seemeth generally to be beleeved, and my selfe reputed as some thing of seperation between you, and your people; under a heavier censure than which, I am perswaded no Gentleman can suffer.

Now I understand the mindes of men are more incensed against me, notwithstanding your Majesty hath declared, that in your Princely opinion I am not guilty of Treason, nor are you satisfied in your Conscience to passe the Bill.

This bringeth me into a very great straight, there is before me the ruine of my Children, and family, hitherto untouched, in all the branches of it with any foule Crimes. Here is before me the many ills which may befall your sacred person, and the whole kingdome, should your selfe and Parliament part lesse satisfied one with the other, than is necessary for the preservation both of King and people. Here are before me the things most valued, most feared by mortall man, *Life* or *Death*. To

To say Sir, that there hath not beene a strife in mee, were to make me lesse man, then God knoweth, mine infirmities give me. And to call a destruction upon my selfe and yong Children, where the intentions of my heart, at least have beene innocent of this great offence, may be believed, will finde no easie consent from flesh and bloud.

But with much sadnesse I am come to a resolution, of that which I take to bee best becomming me, to looke upon that which is most principall in it selfe; which doubtlesse is the prosperity of your sacred person, and the Common-wealth, infinitely before any private mans interest.

And therefore in few words, as I put my selfe wholly upon the honour, and justice of my Peeres so clearely, as to beseech your Majesty might please to have spared that Declaration of yours on Saturday last, and intirely to have left me to their Lordships; so now to set your Majesties conscience at liberty, I doe most humbly beseech your Majesty, in prevention of mistakes which may happen by your refusall, to passe this Bill; And by this meanes remove (praised be God) I cannot say, this accursed, (but I confesse) this unfortunate thing forth of the way, towards that blessed agreement, which God I trust, shall ever establish between you and your Subjects.

Sir, my consent shall more acquit you herein to God, than all the world can doe besides. To a willing man there is no injury done. And as by Gods grace, *I* forgive all the world with a calmnesse and meeknesse of infinite Contentment to my dislodging soule; So sir, to you can *I* give the life of this world, with all the chearefulnesse imaginable; in the just acknowledgement of your exceeding favours. And onely begge that in your goodnesse you would vouchsafe to cast your gracious regard upon my poore Sonne, and his three Sisters, lesse or more, and no otherwise, then as their (in present) unfortunate father, may hereafter appeare more, or lesse guilty of this death.

God long preserve your Majesty.

Your Majesties most faithfull, and
humble Subject, and Servant
Tower. STRAFFORD.
4. *May* 1641.

A Letter ſent unto a certaine great Lady, and lately diſcovered by ſtrange accident, May 1641.

Madam:

ALthough there be ſome diſcovery made knowne, yet what is intended is made ſecure; wherefore you muſt procure two thouſand pound ſpeedily; for no danger lets difficultie to compaſſe it, if you keep ſecret: Remember your oath, for we ſhall ſlay the Beaſt with many heads, and deſtroy the Devils brood before they dreame or miſtruſt. Burne the letter you have received, your reward ſhall be in Heaven.

FINIS.

The Pſalme hee choſe to read a little before his execution, being the fifth Pſalme.

POnder my words, O Lord: conſider my meditation.

2 O hearken thou unto the voyce of my calling, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I make my prayer.

3 My voyce ſhalt thou heare betimes, O Lord: early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

4 For thou art the God that haſt no pleaſure in wickedneſſe: neither ſhall any evill dwell with thee.

5 Such as be fooliſh ſhall not ſtand in thy ſight: for thou hateſt all them that work vanitie.

And ſo forwards to the end of the Pſalme.

FINIS.